

Chaplin seeks donations for bicentennial trees

TRACI HASTINGS

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

CHAPLIN — As Chaplin marches toward its bicentennial year, celebration volunteers hope the anniversary will not only honor the town's past but help the future take root as well.

Organizers hope to plant an arboretum at the municipal Edward Garrison Park over the next three years, with the first planting slated for this fall.

"They will be planted in such a way as to expand, enhance and educate residents' and others' understanding of our environment, while complementing, rather than intruding on, the recreational uses of the park," said an announce-

ment from the Chaplin Bicentennial Committee and the Chaplin Recreation Commission.

The arboretum will be partially funded by monies set aside for the bicentennial in the town's budget, and partially by a matching grant from Sustainable CT, a state initiative that promotes best practices for participating municipalities to improve their communities and enhance local resources.

The matching grant requires that donors contribute \$5,000.

"We hope to make this a true community effort by raising donations from local businesses and members of the community," the organizers said.

Those who donate can choose to remain anonymous or be listed on a registry with a note as to what or who their donation commemorates.

Donors may also choose the type of tree they wish to help plant, including beeches, birches, black walnuts, butternuts, dogwoods, elms, hemlocks, ironwoods, larches, maples, oaks, spruces, sycamores, and more.

In addition, donations are tax-deductible.

To donate, send a check to the Town of Chaplin, 495 Phoenixville Road, Chaplin 06235. For more information on the project, or to help volunteer for it, email chaplintrees@gmail.com.